

Report of Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2005

Latah Soil and Water Conservation District

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Counties Served Latah

Legislative District(s) 6

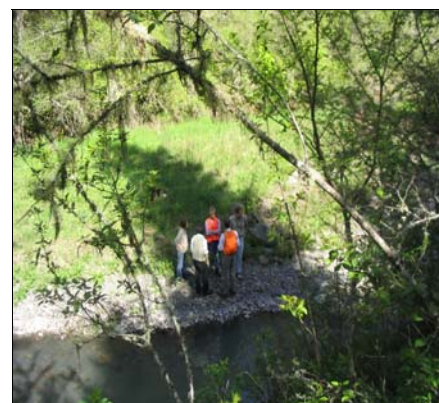


Conservation District Mission Statement

Lead local efforts to promote the stewardship of natural resources, through the development of comprehensive plans and the implementation of strategies for economic and ecological sustainability, on behalf of our citizens, through the coordination of leadership, information, and funding.

Natural Resource Improvements Summary

- ❑ Secured funding to transition 5,000 acres of conventional tillage to continuous direct seeding systems.
- ❑ Secured funding to improve water quality on 15,000 feet of riparian area through the implementation of best management practices on local cattle operations.
- ❑ Surveyed 19 miles of riparian habitat in the Potlatch River drainage to assist landowners interested in protecting and restoring habitat for steelhead.
- ❑ Coordinated federal, state, and local efforts to protect and restore the last remaining remnants of Palouse Prairie.
- ❑ Secured funding for riparian restoration within the Potlatch River drainage to improve steelhead spawning and rearing.



Working with landowners in Pine Creek to restore steelhead habitat

Conservation District Priority # 1 – District Operations

The first goal of the District is to develop and maintain the political and organizational capacity to fully exercise District rights and responsibilities. To develop and maintain an active leadership role, District supervisors serve in leadership roles at local and state levels. The District maintains a staff of four full-time professionals with extensive experience in natural resource management in a variety of professions. Over the past eight years, the District has managed over 45 individual grants and contracts in excess of \$4.5 million.

Conservation District Priority #2 – Water Quality

Water quality remains a critical issue for the District. Water quality improvements to local watersheds have been made by supporting continuous direct seeding systems, minimizing livestock access to water through the development of off-site water for local cattle operations, and restoring riparian areas. The

District develops and manages water quality programs designed to address state-wide issues associated with the State's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program and the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Conservation District Priority # 3 – Fish and Wildlife

Potlatch River habitat restoration efforts for steelhead have been a primary focus of District efforts over the past several years. The District has developed extensive water quality and fisheries habitat monitoring throughout the Potlatch River system. In addition, the District has coordinated funding from a variety of state and federal sources to eliminate passage barriers on Corral Creek, improve steelhead spawning habitat in the Bear Creek stream system and minimize cattle access to riparian areas while maintaining economically viable independent cattle operations.

Information & Education/Public Outreach

Information and education has been a cornerstone activity for the District. The District publishes *The Working Conservationist* on a quarterly basis. Over 2,000 copies are mailed and distributed throughout the county. The District also maintains a website at www.latahsoil.org to provide conservation information for the citizens of Latah County.

Each year, the District hosts over 300 6th graders from elementary schools throughout the county during the Environmental Awareness Days at Spring Valley reservoir. Sessions cover fisheries, forestry, soil, wildfire, wildlife and wilderness survival. Over 15 instructors support this event from US Fish & Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Lands, USDA Agriculture Research Service, USDA Forest Service, Washington State University, Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute and local search and rescue volunteers.



**Environmental Awareness Days
- WSU Raptor Demonstration -**

Community Collaboration & Coordination

The District continues to support local watershed advisory groups with administrative and technical assistance. The District, through funding from the City of Moscow, participates as a full member of Washington State's Palouse River inter-state watershed planning committee.

Synopsis of Assistance Coordinated for Constituents with Conservation Partners

Source	Purpose/Benefit	Funded Amount
Bonneville Power Administration	Develop Potlatch River Watershed Restoration Plan	\$ 173,800
Idaho Office of Species Conservation	Implement riparian restoration efforts within Potlatch River watershed	\$ 250,000
Idaho Department of Fish & Game	Coordinate development of federal and state conservation programs	\$ 34,261
Idaho Soil Conservation Commission	Implement direct-seed systems within Cow Creek watershed	\$ 89,100
Idaho Soil Conservation Commission	Implement direct-seed systems within Potlatch River watershed	\$ 89,100
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Coordinate implementation of farm bill programs	\$ 55,000
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Palouse Prairie ecosystem protection and restoration	\$ 25,000
Total FY05 Funding		\$ 716,261